

National News

House votes money for canceled Israeli jet

The U.S. House of Representatives, which has gutted the budget for the Strategic Defense Initiative and is about to force NASA to kill the space station program due to a shortage of funds to make it viable, has voted up monies for an Israeli project that no longer exists.

For the second year in a row, the House authorized \$450 million in aid to Israel specifically earmarked to help that nation build the Lavi fighter jet, which was to have been an advanced version of the U.S. F-16.

The project, which depended on U.S. technology, was scrapped by the White House last year.

"The patient is on life support," the *Washington Times* quoted a "former top-ranking Defense Department official who monitors Israeli programs." "The program is being funded by Israel's supporters in the House," maintained the *Times*.

Obstacles seen to military role vs. drugs

Marine Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Olmstead, deputy assistant secretary of defense for drug policy and enforcement, testified June 3 before a House Governmental Operations subcommittee on the obstacles the Pentagon has to overcome in order to expand the military's role in drug enforcement.

On the use of AWACS to detect drug movement, Olmstead said it would cost \$9,400 an hour to operate the five or six AWACS planes needed to cover the U.S.-Mexican border. Speaking of the Navy E2C surveillance planes, he said they were "in bad trouble with cracked wing problems" and that 34 of 85 were currently out of service.

General Olmstead also testified that using F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, or F-4 jets to intercept drug smugglers in their small, slow-

moving planes would cause the military jets to stall and crash. He also said that military police are not qualified to perform civilian arrests.

Meese offered 'safe haven' at think tanks

"Sources at . . . the Hoover Institution . . . and the Heritage Foundation . . . have told the *Washington Times* Mr. Meese would find both a platform for his ideas and a financial safe haven there in the unlikely event that he is fired by President Reagan or decides to resign because of allegations against his ethics or financial connections," wrote Jeremiah O'Leary June 3.

A second article in the *Times* indicates from where the public offer to the Attorney General originated. Under the headline, "Fallout from Meese Report Won't Blow Away Till He Goes," Mary Belcher quoted Brookings Institution director of governmental studies Thomas Mann saying, "Politically, what George Bush needs is for Mr. Meese to be able to claim he's been vindicated, so that he'll leave."

Pot causes many injuries, say docs

More than one-third of 1,023 patients treated at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center for serious accidents had used marijuana before being injured. Patients were unaware the study was being conducted. The results were reported in the June issue of *Archives of Surgery*.

"If this is borne out in other studies across the country, it puts a new slant on the safety of marijuana use," said Dr. Edward Cone of Johns Hopkins Addiction Research Center.

"There's a common misconception that marijuana is a safe drug, but the statistics coming out of that study show that people who are using marijuana are involved in accidents at a much higher rate than you would expect."

Iklé, Wohlstetter plan further reports

The Commission on Integrated Long-Term Strategy, co-chaired by former Undersecretary of Defense Fred Iklé and Albert Wohlstetter, plans more reports in the future. The commission's January report, *Discriminate Deterrence*, proposed removing the U.S. nuclear umbrella from allies in Europe and Asia.

Iklé told a journalist June 9 that several new reports will be issued during the remaining months of the Reagan administration.

Commenting on the shock occasioned in Europe by the commission's earlier report, Iklé said, "It reflects the initial anxiety of clinging to the MAD doctrine. European leaders are still stuck in the 1950s, when 'massive retaliation' did not mean mutual destruction. Now, we live in a different world. European leaders were also concerned with the report's conclusion that they would become relatively less important [compared] to China and Japan.

Iklé said that since publication of *Discriminate Deterrence*, European ministers of defense have reassessed strategy. The report is also being intensively studied in China and Japan.

He added that Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci based his budget cuts and force structure cutbacks, preserving a modicum of modernization monies, upon the conclusions of the *Discriminate Deterrence* report.

President Reagan doesn't like Mars

President Reagan told a meeting of reporters and editors June 8, "We've already sent a craft to Mars, as you know . . . [and] taken some pictures that make you wonder why anyone would want to go there."

The curious statement occurred during a speech primarily devoted to expressions of the President's support for the presidential

ambitions of George Bush.

In other statements, the President referred to the economy of the Soviet Union as a "basket case, and that U.S.-Soviet economic cooperation will increase only if the Russians want it to. The Soviets, he added, have spent "far more money on defensive programs than we have with the SDI." He added, however, "Evidently, their technology has not kept pace with ours."

Papers Walsh seeks called highly sensitive

Russell J. Bruemmer, general counsel to the Central Intelligence Agency, has told a U.S. district judge in Washington that the classified documents sought by independent prosecutor Lawrence Walsh in his prosecution of Lt. Col. Oliver North, et al. in the Iran-Contra case, are so sensitive that they are known only to the President and a few senior aides.

Bruemmer said the documents referred to "irreplaceable human sources, technical collection methods, and cooperative arrangements with foreign intelligence services that are still ongoing."

In effect, the CIA statement is an intervention against defense motions seeking access to what the *New York Times* termed "a host of the government's most closely guarded secrets, including covert operations and systems used to intercept electronic communications."

Meanwhile, an internal FBI memorandum on the agency's own investigation of opponents of Reagan administration policies in Central America has been highly critical of such investigations. The June 3 *Baltimore Sun* cited "government sources familiar with the review."

It is not clear whether the report, written by D. Carroll Toohey and Danny Coulson of the FBI's Office of Inspections, criticized top bureau officials for their handling of the investigation. The tone of the report was said to be "pretty tough," however. "These guys went way out on a limb: Some people are saying, 'Wait a minute, wait a minute,'" AP quoted one of its sources.

The secret FBI review was begun in February, and was submitted to FBI Director William Sessions in late May. It is known that FBI informant Frank Varelli delivered congressional testimony saying that the agency urged him to fabricate a justification for an agency investigation of administration opponents, and that the FBI's internal review dealt with this fact.

Is Gorbachov the Antichrist?

A number of Christian fundamentalists in the United States believe that Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachov is the Antichrist, the *Washington Post* reports.

"A small but vocal group of fundamentalist Christians . . . is prepared to argue that the Soviet general secretary is the Antichrist, the Devil's agent on Earth. . . . They mean that he is the tool of the Devil. The Antichrist. Mr. 666 himself," wrote the *Post*.

"The evidence is overwhelming that Gorbachov is the Antichrist," Robert W. Faid is quoted. Faid, a 59-year-old former engineering supervisor who holds a master's degree in theology from Coatesville Bible College, is the author of *A Scientific Approach to Christianity*. He argues in a new book, *Gorbachov! Has the Real Antichrist Come?* that the Soviet leader fulfills virtually all the biblical prophecies about the Antichrist.

"Take the matter of that birthmark on Gorbachov's forehead. . . . When I look at the top of Gorbachov's head, I see a red dragon and over the right eye, there's a tail that hangs, representing stars," says Faid.

Inside the Soviet Union, news media have never published pictures of the general secretary showing his birthmark, for fear of the reaction of superstitious Russian peasants.

Faid explains that St. John in *Revelations: 12:3-4*, portrays Satan in similar terms, as a "great red dragon and his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth." Thus, says Faid, "If Gorbachov is truly the Antichrist, Satan branded him in his mother's womb."

Briefly

● **WEDTECH'S** ex-president, Anthony Guariglia, testified June 2 at the racketeering trial of Rep. Mario Biaggi (D-N.Y.) assured him late in 1986 that he was working with Attorney General Ed Meese to halt the Wedtech probe. At the last of three meetings at LaGuardia Airport near the end of 1986. Wallach told him, "Take it easy. Hang tough. I spoke with Ed Meese, and we're trying to get this investigation quashed."

● **FRANK CARLUCCI**, U.S. defense secretary, who stopped over in Tokyo on his way back from the Reagan-Gorbachov summit, said that "summitry is no substitute for security," and that while Gorbachov's *perestroika* "is important, let me emphasize that as of today we have not seen any tangible impact of *perestroika* on the Soviet military establishment." Maybe someone should introduce him to the President.

● **JESSE JACKSON** has threatened a Democratic convention floor-fight to get the party platform to brand South Africa a "terrorist state." If Michael Dukakis "will not bend on that matter, we will simply meet on the floor in Atlanta," Jackson told a Los Angeles radio audience.

● **LAWRENCE WALSH**, Iran-Contra prosecutor, has decided to lead the prosecution team in court himself, in the conspiracy trials of Oliver North, John Poindexter, Albert Hakim, and Richard Secord, "if a trial is held," as the *Washington Post* put it. The *Post* views this as "a strong signal that his investigation of the scandal is winding down."

● **NICHOLAS BRADY**, the investment banker who headed the presidential commission investigating the October 1987 stock market crash, will probably become Secretary of the Treasury when James Baker leaves the post this summer to head George Bush's presidential campaign.